

Routine Proceedings

We all remember the many examples during the international conferences, particularly between Canada and the United States, where the member for Skeena led the discussions on critical environmental issues overlapping our borders with the United States, whether they be the 49th parallel or the border between Alaska and British Columbia and the rest of Canada.

We are going to miss Jim Fulton. However, we are comforted in the knowledge that he is going to go forward and maintain his commitment to environmental issues. We wish him well in his endeavours to assist others, be they governments of whatever level, be they individuals, organizations and agencies in their pursuit of ensuring that future generations are able to benefit from the pristine environments that still exist within our great country.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): There being no further members rising for debate, the time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired.

Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

According to the order adopted earlier, we will resume the adjournment debate. The hon. member for Dartmouth has 12 minutes remaining.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Andre (p. 20927).

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, I was talking about this government's record over the last five years. It has been an abysmal record. It has been a record of absolute despair. It has been a record of misleading Canadians about the true intentions of the government's economic agenda.

Before we rose I was talking about the port of Halifax. This port is one of the probably two most efficient ports in all of North America. It has suffered under the regressive taxation, depreciation and rail policies of this government.

• (1945)

Continuously I have risen to my feet in this place and asked the Prime Minister, the Minister of Transport, or anybody opposite who cared, to please address the real concerns that have been raised by the people like those in the Halifax-Dartmouth Port Development Commission, the Atlantic Provinces Transportation Council, about the very policies that were driving Canadian-bound container traffic away from the port of Halifax and down to the ports of New York and Baltimore.

The tonnage, the container traffic, and the jobs were driven away because of those policies. I have been on my feet in this House 30 times, the most recent time being yesterday, asking for help for the port of Halifax. The Minister of Transport does not care at all about the important position of the port of Halifax and has absolutely refused in five years to respond to one of the requests that have been put forward, not by me because maybe I am a partisan, but by the people whose business it is to promote the port of Halifax and preserve the level of traffic that was there formerly.

The stevedores are not working. The people have lost their jobs at the grain terminal in Halifax because this government in another one of its brilliant moves, came in and cancelled the At and East program which subsidized the movement of grain through Atlantic Canadian ports. What about all the people who lost their jobs at that grain terminal when the government came in and indiscriminately cut that subsidy, but never touched the Crow rate, never touched any subsidization through western grain stabilization. Oh no, no. Every time there has been a cut by this government, it has disproportionately put the burden of that hardship on to Atlantic Canada. So the port has suffered under this administration.

I spoke a little earlier about the requirement for this country to grow and prosper and the redistribution of wealth. I talked about things like ACOA and economic regional development agreements which have been gutted, neutered by this government's policies over the last five years.

Another way that governments try to transfer money to equalize opportunity is by Established Program Financing. I have said over and over again here in this House and all across this country that what this government has done in its attempt to withdraw the historic